

REMARKS

Claims 41 - 61 have been rejected for various reasons under §§ 101, 103 and 112. Claims 41 - 61 have been cancelled and new claims are submitted herewith, some of which correspond roughly to some of these now cancelled claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims presented here define patentable subject matter.

§ 101 and § 112 Rejections

New independent claims 62 and 63 (and the remaining new dependent claims 64 - 71) recite the steps of positioning the frame above the deck and inserting a portion of the upstanding member into the at least one notch; thus the claimed methods now recite at least one step (not structure) that does define over the prior art and which satisfies § 112.

New independent claim 64 recites the step of flattening the non-flat areas of screening material - which defines over the prior art and satisfies § 112.

Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims - all of which claim a method, and only a method, (and not a "machine") now satisfy § 101.

§ 103 Rejection

Claims 43 - 53 and 55 - 59 have been rejected under § 103 based on Baltzer et al ("Baltzer"; U.S. 5,967,336). These claims have been canceled. Applicants note that the new independent claims submitted here recite the insertion of an upstanding member into a notch and, as the Office Action states: "... examiner agrees that Baltzer does not disclose an upstanding member as claimed in claims 41 and 42. Therefore, these claims appear to define over 'Baltzer' (Page 2, Paragraph 2, Office Action).

Applicants note that new claims 64 - 70 recite the step of flattening non-flat areas of screening material and that Baltzer

has no teaching or suggestion of doing this.

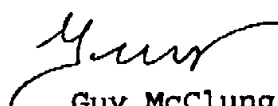
Baltzer '336 has no teaching or suggestion regarding flattening rippled non-flat areas of screening material and no mention of or recognition of the problem addressed by the present invention. Baltzer deals solely with a frame with a planar surface on which is placed a flat plate and flat layers of screening material.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims discussed above define nonobvious subject matter which is patentable with respect to the cited art and any possible legal combination thereof.

Conclusion

Applicants appreciate the careful and detailed Office Action. This is intended to be a complete Response to the Office Action. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

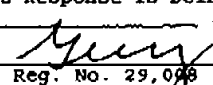

Guy McClung
Reg. No. 29,008

Date: 11 NOV 04
PMB 347
16690 Champion Forest Drive
Spring, TX. 77379--7023
Phone: 281 893 5244

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I the undersigned certify that the original of this Response is being facsimile transmitted to the examiner at 703 872 9306 on 11 NOV 2004.

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Guy McClung, Reg. No. 29,008

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Guy McClung, Reg. No. 29,008